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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Ms. Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.26

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009 and 66/206 of 22 December 2011 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, and also its resolution 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All,

Also recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 December 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[3] and of Agenda 21,[4] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[5] and the

[1] See resolution 60/1.
[2] A/65/1.
[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.
[4] Ibid., annex II.
[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6]

Recalling the high-level event on "Sustainable Energy for All", which took place at its sixty-seventh session and which focused on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies,

Concerned that lack of access to energy and sustainable modern energy services is an important factor that directly affects efforts towards poverty eradication, the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in the developing world,

Deeply concerned that 2.6 billion people in developing countries rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that 1.3 billion people are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing also the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the provision of the efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which is aimed at promoting the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries as the way to achieve a rapid expansion of renewable energy worldwide,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Decides* to declare the decade 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, to promote the use of all sources of energy, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980;

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[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] A/67/314 and A/67/318.

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

4. *Stresses* the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix as an important contribution to achieving universal access to sustainable modern energy services, and recognizes that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific national challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix;

5. *Emphasizes* that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and promoting cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are important for sustainable development;

6. *Recognizes* that the current share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy supply is still low due to, among other factors, high costs and lack of access to appropriate technologies, calls for action to achieve economic viability of new and renewable sources of energy through enhanced research and development support along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the diffusion of new and existing environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[5]

8. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

10. *Reaffirms its determination* to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of giving appropriate consideration to energy issues in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015;

12. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable modern energy services a priority, as such services contribute to poverty eradication, improve the quality of life, reduce inequality, save lives,

improve health and help to provide for basic human needs, as well as curb environmental risks, including those associated with climate change, and stresses that these services are essential to social inclusion and gender equality;

14. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies aimed at the most rapid reduction in the cost of new and renewable sources of energy, and increase in the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment;

15. *Reiterates its call* on all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the initiatives taken by Member States and international organizations to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including measures to improve access to such technologies;

18. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities around the world, from within existing resources;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".